WENDELL POST

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THE FOOTBAG PEACE INITIATIVE

THE FOOTBAG PEACE INITIATIVE: A Wendell-Based Friendship Brigade

Along with five North American companions I travelled to Central America this winter to share one of the things I love most in this world: footbag. Our goal was to use this innocuous little game (known widely as "Hacky Sack") to promote personal contacts, (between gringos and latinos) dialog and real friendship. Taking our inspiration from models like Ben Linder (who said of our role in the Central American struggle: "Whatever you can do...needs to be donc.") we hoped that this playful, personal approach might help transcend the hateful stereotypes which dominate our relations in the region.

The Footbag Peace Initiative went unannounced to Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua staging free, daily, participatory "Hack" spectables. The troupe performed street tneatre and choreographed kicking routines as well as offering spontaneous teaching sessions and sack sewing workshops. Coming out with footbag, playing and sewing thise little leather balls on the street, set off explosions of activity in every village we visited. We also performed to very lively audiences in a prison, the national stadium, the Ministry of culture (Guatemala) and on T.V. twice.

"El futbolito" offered us a remarkable medium to barnstorm for peace. This lively little game caught people be surprise opening doors and hearts everywhere. The Central Americans had simply never met gringos like us. Before they could react, we were in the street kicking and sewing baby "fut" balls and inviting everyone to join in. People who would have greeted us with suspicion and hatred were quickly won over by the joy of sack and engulfed by laughter and silliness.

There was Joyabaj, Quiche where we wandered into the midst of the year's biggest fiesta (La Concepción). Our playful agenda fit perfectly with the Guatemalans' mood of unrestrained "alegria". In two days the town was awash with 50 futbolitos and everywhere we went we were swarmed by jubilant kids.

....There was Eric, the gentle Guatemalan and his sweetheart Marta who were so startled to find us in the backcountry teaching footbag making to a crowd of Indian children. It was as if they were already old friends after sitting down to sew with us on that ancient village square.

...At Christmas we offered a sewing clinic for a platoon of bored soldiers guarding the farming cooperative of San Pedro, Nicaragua. The image of uniformed military joyfully putting aside automatic weapons to sew footbags remains vivid in our imagination...

Some of our interactions with Central Americans were more painful. I think of Ivan, the sad-eyed cigarette vendor in Esteli, Nicaragua who intoned monotonously the wonders of the U.S.A. "C;othes, gasoline, vehicles, T.V. shows...Why, you gringos even have better cigarettes over there!" "You are right, Ivan," I admitted, "We do have many things available in the States. But, you Nicaraguans have heart!" My young friend did not respond for and for a long time we sat in silence. Later, I caught a flash of fear in his eyes when he explained that he turns 17 this year, the age when thousands of Nicaraguan boys become cannon fodder.

In January we did a footbag demo and interview on the evening TV news in Nicaragua. I looked into the camera and told the Nicaraguans that we were indeed promoting futbolitc all through the country, but that frankly, we didn't care too much if "our" sport caught on. What really mattered, I said, was creating a new kind of relationship between gringos and Nicaraguans! For weeks, people all over the country (who are as hungry for messages of solidarity as for material support) approached me on the street to thank us for our presence!

As I sit here now in Wendell at my electric typewriter, it is not without deep questions that I look back on our experience of footbagging for peace. Juxtaposed against the affection, fun and excitement we shared in Central America is the current news of the election farce in El Salvador, growing repression in Guatemala and further hardship in Nicaragua. Each of us ultimately must choose the energy we give and take from the world in work and practice and I have no doubt that for us, FPI was the best contrive could make. However, certain questions linger...

continued to page 2

Inside Stories

Candidates Statements pages 6&7
Draft - Town Warrant page 8
R.A.T.S. Update page 5
Notes on the Budget page 10
Bert remembers... page 15
lots of letters and more.....

POST PRODUCTION: JOIN THE POST

New in town? like to join the Post staff for fun and participation in town goings-on? Or have you been around quite some time and were always wanting to do mething for the Post.

Now's your chance! The Post needs a few people willing to put in a few hours every other month working on our 6 issues per year. We need people to type, to help lay-out the stories and pictures and to deliver the Post to it's 4 places of sale. Also, we just lost our calligrapher, Missy Brothers, who's been doing our beautiful headlines.

So please come forward. We do have fun putting this paper out. Call Anne Diemand at 4-6111 or 4-3806.

NEW FREE BOX

Mark your calendars for May 1, for a gala event, the opening of The New Free Box, sure to be a celebration in true Wendell style and spirit!

When the Country Store was sold, the Free Box, which stood outside at the corner of the store, was removed. Before coming to Wendell, that same box stood outside The Orange Co-op until they closed. The Box is, of course, much more than its physical self, representing the philosophy of recycling, sharing, finding unexpected treasure (yes, once a workable color t.v.!) a community resource. Do you have a favorite Free Box story? Remember Free Box fashion shows?

A group of us gathered for a Free Box meeting, decided to build a New Box in 3 sections - one for usable clothes, one for shoes, one for rags. Other usable items can be recycled at The Recycling and Transfer Station (a.k.a. The Dump.) We'll build on April 29 (rain date April 30), and have the Opening on May 1 - a community potluck at 6pm, followed by entertainment. The Meeting House has agreed to have the New Box on the front steps. Bring all those clothes that are JUST RIGHT for the occasion.

Ideas? Josh 544-6642 Hope 544-7017.

Hope Riley

WENDELL TOWN HALL

ELECTION DAY MAY 1st, 10 am - 8 pm

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING May 24th
time not set at layout.

Vol. XII No. 1

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Wendell Old Home Day

Wendell Old Home Day has veen set for July 8th. Mez Davis is working on lifesize puppets for the morning parade, Katy and Michael Bloomfield will entertain families with music and song, and us clowns are in training.

We are still looking for folks interested in running food and game booths and helping to organize the rest of the day.

What about a Talent Show for the evening entertainment? Any takers? Call Anne at 544-6111, Teri at 544-7446 or Lisa at 544-7636.

Business News

TYPEWRITER NEEDED

Jesse Wetherby, an assessor and clerk to the Board of Health, is in dire need of a portable typewriter, manual or electric, with an emphasis on portable. If you have a light, manual or electric typewriter that is sitting around collecting dust, please consider donating it to the town. For further information, contact Janice at the town hall (4-3395).

Stephen Broll

Horseshoeing
Tony Diemand 544-2851

STINGING NETTLE

THE NUISANCE WEED WITH VIRTUES

One of the first greens to emerge in the Spring is the wild Stinging Nettle (Urtica dioica). When the tender tops of the nettle plants reach 6-8 inches they can be harvested (carefully!) and steamed. For a delicious treat dress with a bit of garlic and olive oil, or try Nettle Soup, a rich and delicious, nutritious way of preparing this wild green. The sting of the nettles is lost upon cooking or drying.

This beneficial weed follows in areas of cultivation - often found near old manure and compost piles, as well as the edges of fields. Usually growing to a height of 3 feet, they can attain heights of 6-8 feet when growing along moist river beds! The opposite leaves are green, hairy, heart-shaped, finely toothed and tapered to points. Small green flowers appear on clusters mid-summer. The entire plant has a soft down and stinging hairs that are little hollow pointed spines which contain their "sting" at the bottom. This stinging quality has caused it to be considered a nuisance at best for many a farmer and gardener! Several plants that grow nearby can be used to reduce the itching and burning a nettle sting can cause. Mullein, yellowdock and plantain all contain properties which will relieve the inflammation when crushed or chewed into a pulp which is then rubbed into the sore area. There is an old ritual to recite while doing this: Dock in, Nettle out. Dock rubs Nettle out. Especially with a child, this can take their mind off the discomfort for a few moments while the juice from the leaves does it's healing! There is also a homeopathic ointement called Urtica Urens, another kind of nettles, that brings almost instant relief! With nettles growing in the garden, we keep it close at hand and walk way around the nettle patch. We have each gained a deep respect for this plant, and for years I shied away from it until a few years ago when I attended an Herbal work shop with Susan Weed.

She introduced me to Nettles as a wonderful food and medicine, hair tonic, fiber and dye plant that has been used for centuries in Europe and here. In the feudal times nettles were used in the making of beer, and were so valued that the lords would tithe their serfs 10% of their nettle harvest! As Susan spoke of Nettles as a rich source of vitamins A, C and K; of minerals - especially Calcium and Iron as well as virtually every trace mineral known; of chlorophyll, and even as source of protein, two women were tenderly examining the plants gently rubbing the leaves and stems. Yet, neither received even the slightest "sting"! I like to think the plants knew their beauty and grace was being appreciated and that the spirit in which these two women approached them was one of respect and gratitude for the blessings the Nettles bestows upon those who know her many virtues. (But I still wear gloves when harvesting this herb!)

Medicinally, nettles has been used to nourish and strengthen the liver, pancreas, kidneys and adrenal glands. The infusion has assisted lowering blood sugar, aiding poor circulation and helped certain cases of acne and eczema. Nettles is considered a good source of folic acid and has been used to prevent folic acid anemia. Women have used this herb to increase fertility, as it is known as a uterine tonic; as an iron supplement; to prevent afterbirth hemmorhage, as it is a rich source of vitamin K: and to inorease the amount and richness of breast milk.

The infusion has a deep, rich taste and dark green color that some enjoy and others choose to mellow with a bit of mint. You can choose to drink this for any of the above conditions and also pour it over your head after shampooing as a terrific hair tonic for thick, soft, shiny hair and to control dandruff.

In centuries past in Europe, nettles were used for making all types of fiber from very fine cloth to rough cordage. In WWI Germans ran short of cloth and resorted to nettles as an efficient substitute for making cloth and writing paper. As a natural dye for wool, nettle leaves yield yellows to greens depending on the mordant used.

Nettles are high in nitrogen making them great for the compost piles. They also have a dynamic influence on their surroundings. Other nearby plants seem to grow more resistant to insects and diseases, the essential oil content of some plants is increased (especially peppermint), and nettles actually stimulate humus formation. Medicine for the soil as well as our bodies! Nettles is certainly a plant of may virtues, if we can but get by the "sting". Perhaps she just wants to get our attention!

Happy harvesting!
Kate

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MASSAGE THERAPIST
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FOOTBAG PEACE
continued from Page 1

We were hardly the first to realize that through popular culture (ie: sports, music, poetry and performing arts, etc.) we have an awesome avenue to take foreign relations into our own hands. In fact, it the truth be known, there is nothing stopping us from going and making friends with our so called enemies. The FPI organized and executed an entirely unsanctioned friendship parade through three of the hottest countries in the hemisphere. Nobody stopped us. On the contrary, we were universally welcomed and embraced by all kinds of people.

Forget for a moment that casting ourselves in the role of gypsy crusaders was a highly presumptuous and typically gringo thing to do. A little leather ball graced us with the chance to make soulful, joyous connections with thousands. Realizing that a barely sane would may call for a slightly crazy response from us peons (who didn't ask to get born into political and environmental messes...) we gathered our balls and flew!!

The FPI is currently working to finish a professional film about this winter's peace brigade. Shot prize-winning Deerfield filmmaker Robbie Leppzer, the documentary will raise public awareness of Central American issues while broadcasting an important message of hope: North and Central Americans will play together joyfully as equals given half a chance!

Daniel Botkin, FPI Coordinator

Open letter on Home Taking

To the Wendell Post:

March 7, 1989

TO: Mr. William Gorczyca
Internal Revenue Service
91 Main Street - Suite #2
Greenfield, MA 01301

FROM: Members of the Wendell Church

SUBJECT: A plea for the home of Betsy Corner, Randy Kehler, their young daughter Lillian, and for all of us

Dear Mr. Gorczyca,

Is a strong defense the path to peace? General Eisenhower said:
"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children... This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

Is this peace?

There is no record that the Prince of Peace ever advocated a strong defense.

Is the Golden Rule a path to peace? Would anyone want to hurt us, if we helped them?

Perhaps a golden rule "carrot" with a strong defense "stick" would be best? The presence of the stick makes the carrot a sign of danger like bait in a trap. The carrot no longer carries love. It tries to bribe.

Well, you may say, should we make Mother Theresa Secretary of Defense? Be realistic! But, if we will not believe in peace until we have it, and we will not have it until we make it, and we can not make it until we believe in it; we are stuck - stuck in a dangerous world. A world made dangerous by our lack of belief. Is this a realistic path to peace?

The fact that we are stuck means that we have more faith in violence than we have in our Creator.

Does this make sense?

If so, repeat after me: I pledge allegience to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under violence, indivisible with plutonium and strontium 90 for all. If we don't change our course, we will end up where we are headed.

A great nation is not large or powerful or dominant. A great nation is good.

A nation can not be "under God" and contrary to God. "Love one another." The best defense is a good offense - a "kind and gentle" offense.

As you know, Betsy Corner and Randy Kehler have been giving their war taxes to organizations that help people. They are teaching us what we need to learn! Please do not seize and sell their home!

A government that requires taxes for war and honors not, taxes for peace, is a government that makes sin lawful and virtue unlawful. It is a government, but not "under God."

Please do not seize and sell their home!

We cannot look the other way while our country builds a "strong defense" on their homelessness!

We cannot look the other way while our government punisnes them for practicing what we preach!

We honor them!

Peace be with you.
Peace be with us.

Members of the Wendell Church

Dog Says Thanks

To the Wendell Post:

DEAR WENDELL POST & STUDENTS OF SWIFT RIVER

I am a well-trained, sweet, beautiful Samoyed with a very special thank you to the students of Swift River Elementary School who saved my life.

Because of you I was not put to death by a veternarian hospital that didn't have room. My ten days to be reclaimed after I was picked up by the Athol Dog Officer had expired. Some people saw me, heard of my fated destiny, told their sixth grade friends, who told a school custodian, my hour of doom was postponed so the custodian could try to find me a home. No one could claim me, so she signed adoption papers herself, and we drove around Wendell looking for a home. George at the Country Store graciously offered to house and love me for a week until a suitable home could be found. Now I live a happy life in Millers Falls.

You students proved an important point, very relevant with the election issue of the post, that your opinion counts. If you had not told the custodian you cared about my life, I would no longer be here to thank you. Sniffle, sniffle, thank-you. Your vote counts.

Love, SOPHIA,
A Happy Samoyed

Ties To Town

To the Wendell Post:

A friend or my grandmother (Mabel Robinson) had moved from Boston to Wendell in the early 1900s. My grandparents came from Cape Cod to visit her. They were impressed with quiet countryside.

They decided to vacation and spend their weekends in Wendell. A few years later they bought the "Cogswell place" on the Common.

Their daughter Etta visited them. A few years later she married Frank Ballou of Wendell. They lived on the Common in the present Donald Ellis property.

My father Edward was away at sea during World War II. My mother Lydia stayed with her baby Peggy at Frank and Etta's. When the war ended my father returned with "war- related" illness. After living a short while on Martha's Vineyard Island, where I was born, they relocated to Wendell. At that time it was thought that the "air in Wendell was beneficial to one's lungs".

My mother's sisters and brothers from the island visited. One of them, Louise, later married Ray Clark. The Clarks and Ballous were longtime Wendell residents.

In 1922 my father died leaving three very young daughters.

In 1924 my mother married Glenn Ellis. Jack was born in 1926 and Donald in 1928. We were all raised in Wendell.

Close ties of family relationships seem to be the catalyst responsible for our becoming Wendell residents.

My continuing interest in the town stems from a variety of things as follows:

1. I grew up in Wendell
2. My brother Don lives there
3. Friends live in Wendell and
4. I have considerable interest in your town because of the focus on preservation of its natural resources. Keep it up!

Sincerely,
Helen Hansen

Couldn't Wendell Do This?

To the Wendell Post:

Seattle sets goal of 60% recycling ---

Seattle - Seattle incinerator plans were put to rest for at least five years last fall when the City Council voted for a program intended to reduce, recycle, or compost 60% of the city's trash by 1994. The vote, which makes Seattle a nationwide model, ended a long local debate on incineration vs. recycling.

Seattle, which recently began city-wide recycling, is already half-way to it's 60% goal. Households receive free containers for curbside collection of newspapers, bottle cans and such "mixed" paper as cardboard boxes and junk mail. Plastic bottle and bag collection has begun on a pilot scale. Composting and apartment recycling are planned, as are incentives to reward residential and commercial recycling through reduced charges of waste disposal.

After the Seattle vote, surrounding King County dropped its incineration plans in favor of a 65% recycling goal.

Los Angeles City and County, which produce roughly twice as much garbage as New York City have now set a 50% recycling goal, as has Philadelphia.

Information on Seattle's recycling assessment is available from Tim Gross, Seattle Waste Utility, 710 Second Avenue, Suite 505, Seattle, WA 98014.

Submitted by Wendy Levitch

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WAS THIS A "GOOD" YEAR FOR MAPLE SYRUP?

Maple enthusiasts used to have an easy time. They would speculate about good versus bad sugar years which depended upon the weather. Idyllic cold nights followed by warm, sap flowing days controlled the migration of sap in a perfect rhythm.

I'm like a maple in that I prefer cold nights for good sleeping which revitalizes me for the next day's activities. But the parallel goes only so far or else my head would be cool, my toes hot. On frosty nights the sap is drawn back down to the roots in a shortened hibernation period only to resume its flow the next warm day. If the nights are pleasant, then the sap continues its flow to the buds and feeds them juice in preparation for leafing.

The months preceding tapping weather this year would have produced familiar debate were it not for a quandary. But there had been much speculation as to whether the combination of damage from pear thrips, drought acid rain...had weakened the stately monarchs the Rock, or Sugar Maple. If they had been weakened, then tapping might lead to further degeneration while a year of no tapping might afford them the respite needed to resume their delicate balance. Notice the vocabulary: might, whether...Maple farmers were treading a speculative and unprecedented fine line. They love their trees and their sugaring work but many depend upon the income from sales of syrup. So the decision was complex.

I stare intently at our maple trees, at the awesome grandeur of their agedness, as if my penetrating gaze will receive an answer. I communicate silently. Their response is both as mysterious as life flow itself and as obvious as evolution.

The practical question remains; To Tap Or Not To Tap, or, to tap lighter or only healthier trees?

Our family took a semi-cautious approach and set apx. 40 buckets this year, about 1/3 less than other years. Last summer we had notices thrip damage and subsequent refoliation which consumes reserve energy from the tree. We had listened carefully to research reports and speculation in the media and had decided to try to neutralize one factor within our reach: soil Ph. So, we spread bountiful amounts of wood ash and some lime to combat the acid rain which tends to make plant life more susceptible to disease or insect infestation. Maple trees can withstand some acidity but are more alkaline loving. Thus their leaves are best for garden mulch not being as acid as oak...

We had a decent year which means we canned enough syrup for our needs or apx. seven gallons. The sap seemed to be sweeter than our recollections of other years and there were slow periods as there are every year. Once in a while a bucket was brimming. There were days we doubted our judgement about tapping, but then will time even tell?

I decided to speak to other maple producers. In Wendell I knew that Peter and Lin Diemand were hard at work. Peter reported that his trees ran less and that the sugar content seemed to be down although that guess-timate was from assessing apx. how many gallons of sap he boiled to how many gallons syrup produced - 60. They too had tapped lighter than last year: 400 and not 600 taps. Peter had experimented by setting many new trees never drilled before. They seemed to run no differently from the older ones despite their quality bark and youthful vigor. "Well Nina, the season was not all that good."

Jonathan von Ranson and Susan Dunlaney also set fifteen taps which produced five quarts. They found this to be a sweet year. I wondered who else boiled locally? (I would like to know for a next year's update.) I needed more responses to the questions.

Who might know better than the Sugar King, Rob Ripley our Chestnut Hill neighbor. His Montague trees, close relatives of ours in Wendell, would have been subject to similar weather and disease patterns, and his solid analysis of events would be based upon 80 plus years of comparisons. Rob was born at the turn of the century and says with a gentle chuckle that he grew up with maples, was always part of the operation. Even when he was six he would go with the wagon drawn by horses or oxen. When he was a young teen his dad sustained an injury and young Rob took over the boiling.

I got to know "Robbie Rip" as neighbor and boss when I lived in Montague and worked his sugar crew for years. His patience with a fledgling, female crew was indicative of his peaceful and respectful nature. He trusted us city-kids with his life-line tractor and ancient crawler, tracking us down through swamp and scruff to salvage the haul. But he knew we would grow to the task and get his harvest in. Just ask him about those good ol' days. I picture them only in a dream of vapors and aching muscles and hysterical images of 4000 taps. (500-725 gallons in a good year.)

"Well, it ain't doin much!" says Rob. "We got less than half a year. We didn't have any weather. It was too cold and didn't freeze enough." Rob said he got 200 gals; set less on some trees "on account of that bug." He thought the sap was a little sweeter. When asked what he thought the problem was, he responded, "I lay it to the weather." "How much for a gallon this year, Rob?" "Thirty-five dollars, and that's cheap compared to them big places. People gotta buy their syrup and my customers are everyday people."

Rob Ripley has no trouble selling his wares. And that has nothing to do with the price.

But remember the nature of contradictory "evidence". On April 7, a story in the recorder reported that the sugaring season was dismal and offered comments from Frankli County producers. Poor production was blame on weather. "We didn't get to find out the effect of the thrips because the weather was so bad." "The weather was the real bug in this year's production." Producers reported a drier than usual summer and fall in 1988 and lack of know this winter (not debatable) which kept trees dry and prevented them from producing sap. However, there were predictions that too much warm weather this season...

It all makes me wonder about pure scientific investigation and--was it too warm or too cold, was the sugar content of sap up? Or down? Was there any effect from thrips or acid rain? Was it different here from there?

"Well Nina, don't lose any sleep!"

Nina Heller

New classrooms at Swift River

2ND ANNUAL PLANT SWAP

May 21 !

Bring houseplants, annuals & perrenials to trade or
Bring samples of what you have to dig at home and swap orders or
Bring other tradeable items (baked goods haircuts, etc.) for plants

rain location - meetinghouse

DOG NEEDS HOME

Good home needed for 3 year female spayed mixed breed dog (black). Excellent watch dog. Use to being indoors and outdoors. Smart pooch! Call 413-367-9342, please leave message.

BEGINNER MEDITATION CLASS

When: May 10, 17, 24, 31
Time: 7 - 9 PM
Where: Clare Green's, Wendell
Fee: $3.00/class or $10.00/all 4
More?: call Clare 544-7421

This 4 week session of classes is designed for the beginner meditator, or for those of you needing a "spring tune-up". The classes will discuss: the importance of meditation, healing, reducing stress, visualizations, affirmations, the chakras, spiritual guardians. Come to class with your questions and concerns.

Please call to register. If you are interested, but unable to attend, call me and another time can be set-up to discuss your interests or concerns about meditation.

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GETTING SERIOUS AT THE RECYCLE CENTER

If you've been to the town landfill lately you've noticed the remnants of our first metal recycling day, and perhaps thought to yourself, "Something's going on here!" Something is indeed going on.

What's going on is that the price of disposing of waste is going up. Ten years ago one could dispose of trash by paying for the trucking costs, perhaps $2 per ton. Today the cost can be $120 per ton, an increase of 6,000%. I recently computed the costs of disposing of many pf the common items people need to get rid of and discovered that the cost of disposal is about 10% of the purchase price. (Actually more for many items. Lumber costs about 1/3 of its new price for disposal.)

An easy way out of this dilemna for the BOH is to close its eyes and do nothing but request an increase in our budget; however, the Finance Committee has turned us down before we even asked! More difficult, but realistic, is to institute a combination of user fees and mandatory participation in recycling efforts. And you, the user and recycler, play the crucial role.

As an example of "real world" alternatives I would like to relate a story a friend told me of a couple who recently moved to a neighboring town from New York. They actually brought some of their trash with them because they could not get rid of it in their former residence! My own opinion is that we will avoid such a situation only through voluntary, but disciplined, cooperation in our community. With this in mind the BOH is attempting to come up with methods Wendell's residents can easily understand and comply with, and then insist that people do comply with them. It is necessary to realize that although the town provides a disposal service as a necessity of life, it is not required by law to do so. What is required is that we follow environmental laws when we do provide such services, and these laws are becoming more stringent as our planet becomes more polluted. As the mountains of metal at our landfill indicate, we have occasionally fallen behind in our efforts.

At present the BOH would like to remind the citizens of Wendell of some present policies which are not being fully complied with, and give an indication of some changes to expect in the near future. First, we would like to point out that there is a Land fill Permit needed to use the dump. The Board is hiring an assistant for Parker so that this and other rules will be enforced. We ask that you cooperate, as this is the only way we can insure that non-town residents do not dispose of their waste at your expense.

Secondly we want to encourage everyone to separate glass, metal, and paper from other trash and handle it according to landfill rules. We are able to move these items at a lower cost (not profit). Note that paper should be baled, glass sorted by color, and ferrous metals (those attracted by a magnet) should be separated from non-ferrous metals. Of course an attendent will always be glad to show you where to put recycled items.

Thirdly, no non-biodegradable or hazardous materials should go into the landfill itself. Hazardous materials should be kept for hazardous waste days; otherwise, small items go in the compactor, large items into the open-top container the board is re-instituting. In order to make sure that undesirable trash does not end up in the landfill we ask that you unload everything not going into the landfill first, then allow an attendent to inspect your load before you dump it. We are considering putting a gate to the landfill area to restrict access; this may not be necessary if we have everyone's cooperation.

As I've mentioned the BOH is going to bring back the open top container for items too large for the compactor, but as a concession to Wendell's tax situation, we may have to institute a fee for its use. We will keep the fee lower than the actual cost of disposal, but it will be a reminder that the world of trash disposal ain't what it used to be. We hope the citizens of Wendell will cooperate with us, and that we all come to accept responsibility for our trash as we do other facets of social life.

The Wendell BOH is attempting to steer a slow but steady course on disposal matters. We are in the position so well described by former president Ronald Reagan during the 1980 election campaign - the costs will go up, but we are trying to keep the rises as low as possible. May we be more successful than he was! With this in mind you can expect more changes in the months and years to come. We encourage your participation and wish to hear of any complaints or ideas you have.

Bob Leet

FRIENDS OF THE R.A.T.S.

If you would like to become a Friend of the R.A.T.S. (recycling and transfer station) and help with ongoing projects at the R.A.T.S. ---like helping to build sheds, planting perrenial flower gardens, baking hearty snacks for workdays or making more recycling happen in Wendell, call Joyce at 544-8457.

Be a friend, volunteer your skills and time.

METAL SORTING PARTY AT THE R.A.T.S.

If you went to the R.A.T.S. on March 11, you would have seen a most unusual and impressive sight: A mess of townsfolks sorting through that huge heap of metal that has accumulated over a couple of years. The metal was sorted into different catagories like sheetmetal, tangly metal (any metal that tangles like thin piping or bed springs), cast iron, aluminum and appliances/household containers. Open top dump trailers were on site to be filled wiht the metal by David Wilder using a cherry picker. The metal was transported by Don and Patty Clark to Kramers in Greenfield. Krameres pays anywhere from five dollars to fifteen dollars a ton according to metal type. The appliances and household containers cost .03¢ per pound to dispose of because the containers have the potential of having had hazardous wastes in them and the appliances need further breaking down in order to make the metal available.

2nd GREAT METAL SORT
at the R.A.T.S.
(recycling & transfer station)

9:00am-4:00pm
12:00-1:00 potluck lunch

Childcare and snacks provided
Bring Workgloves

Now if you've been to the R.A.T.S. since that day you know what a success the metal sorting party was. Over thirty people worked throughout the day sorting and cleaning (taking of plastic and wood) metal. Through sheer woman and man power we sorted and moved over 60% of that pile!! Spirits were up as people chatted and worked together moving heavy pieces. But smells, disturbing smells emerged from the pile as we got deeper into it, making us all very aware of past neglect and carelessness.

People spoke about how they would never look at metal the same way again. Indeed, metal should not be boked as disposable, thus we need to be more selective about what we buy in terms of its ability to last and our ability to maintain its function through home repairs. So we all got a good education that day but had a good time together in the process.

A special thankyou to Lois Carey, Lucielle Lewis and Jessie Wetherby for providing some of the delicious snacks!

A hearty thankyou to the following volunteers for the time they gave that day: Claudia Pommer, Jean Strom, Ann Perkins, Josh and Max Heinaman, Laura Kay, Barbara Liberty, Jessie Aoerning, John Davis, Haggai, Gina Caputo, Mark Nygard, Bob Vincent, Brenda Vincent, Sharon Gensler, David Leim and Brendon Walsh, Tom and Tom Mangan, Helen and Nathan Boland, Chris Rollins, Rosie Heidkamp, Bob Leet, Chris Golash, Charles Smith, Zenya Wild, Jonathan von Ranson, Dottie, Christina and Kara Cleveland, Crow Newington, Eileen Sauvageau, and Prudy Smith (and to any of you we may have forgotten...)

Joyce Greenoer

Excavating
Bulldozer
Backhoe Work
Stone Walls

WILDER ENTERPRISES
STAR ROUTE 10
WENDELL DEPOT, MASS
01380
617-544-2773

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Carol Spargo
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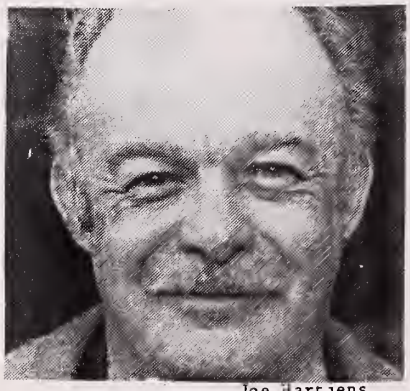
Luthier

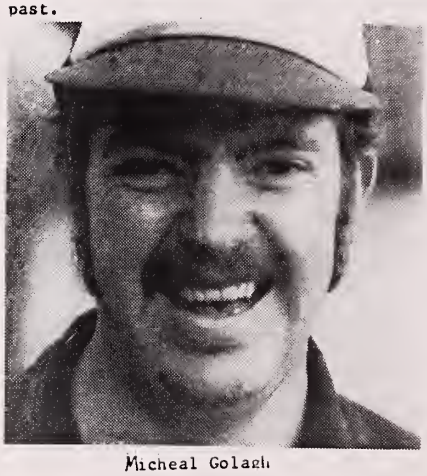
STICKS AND STONES



Joe Hartjens

Constable

Joe says he would like to continue to do the job he's done for so many years in the past.



Micheal Golash

Cemetery Commission

Mike would like to be on the Cemetery Commission because he enjoys working outside and he has had experience. He has worked on this kind of job growing up with his grandfather.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

I like being a member of the Wendell School Committee. At present I am working as a member of the Mahar School Committee tc provide our children with the excellent education they deserve. I am committed to maintaining and improving education for Wendell's students; this is going to cost the taxpayers more money in the next few years than it has in the past.

Christine Heard

Rosie Heidkamp

Board of Health

Although I've been a resident since 1983, I probable know more Wendell youth than adults. I feel strongly that our children deserve the best holistic education that they can receive. I am anxious to learn about the school budget and will work toward an efficient spending.

I'm proud of our town's devotion to the developement of it's children.

Virginia Caputo
Locke Hill #1
Wendell
School Committee

THE WENDELL PLANNING BOARD ANNOUNCES:

A vacancy. Here is your chance to join one of the most prestigious organizations in Wendell. If you are interested please come to a planning board meeting. We meet every first and third Tuesday of eacn month.

NOTICE

The Wendell Assessors are now initiating the Fiscal 1991 Revaluation Program.

On March 25, 1989, David Burgess will start measuring all buildings in Wendell. He will need to see the INSIDE of all buildings in Wendell in order to assess them properly.

YOUR cooperation will be appreciated.

WENDELL BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Jessie Wetherby, Chairperson
Douglas Tanner, Member
Gail Bardsley, Member

Office Phone
(508) 544-3395

Burnett Builders
544-3430
Wendell Ma.

JAMES R. SAWYER
Special Agent
278 Main Street, P O Box 796
Greenfield, MA 01301
Office: (413) 772-0238
Residence: (617) 544-6860
WEST ROAD Wendell
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774-2513
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FIRE PROOFING ★ VAPOR BARRIER
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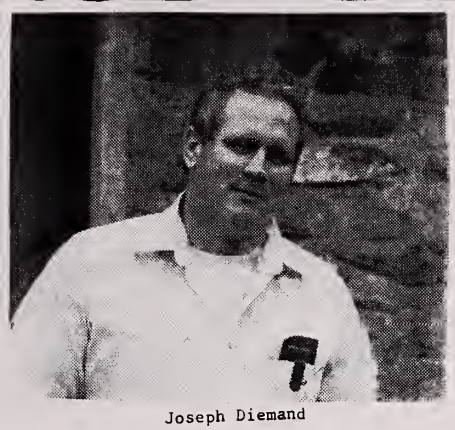
John+Johanna Bailey (413)-259-1643

WHO'S RUNNING?

Doug Tanner--Assessor
Christine Heard--School Committee
Gina Caputo--School Committee (Two Vacancies)
Judy Pratt--Library Trustee
Rosie Heidkamp--Board of Health (Two positions)
Bob Leet--Board of Health
Prudy Smith--Planning Board
Allan Walsh--Road Commission
Danny Bacigalupo--Cemetery Commission (Two Vacancies)
Michael Golash--Cemetery Commission
Danny Bacigalupo--Tree Warden
Joe Hartjens--Constable
Kathy Becker--Moderator
Joe Diemand--Selectboard



Joseph Diemand

Selectboard Candidate

I am extremely concerned about the future of our town. Reflecting back over the past decade, some taxpayers have had over a thousand per cent increase. My concerns are: constantly overriding Proposition 2½, a decrease in the reimbursements from the state, our three school budgets, increases anywhere up to forty per cent to name but a few of the problems Wendell is facing. How many of you people can remember Mormon Hollow Road when it was still dirt or for that matter, the only paved road in town being the one from Wendell Depot to Camp Anderson. How many of you remember what is now the Preschool as our only school? Things have changed a lot in the past forty years and my concerns are that if all of us do not collectively agree on a solution this town will be bankrupt. Some of us will have to compromise, but collectively as a group we can face the challenges being thrust upon us. If elected, I will be asking for the help of all the taxpayers in this town for the next three years because by myself or as a three member board, we're just spinning our wheels. We need the collective energy of all the residents to insure our future.

Kathy Becker

Moderator

I am running for a fourth term, possibly to build character. I would appreciate your vote.

Herbal Health Care
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consultation in: - herbal medicine
- women's well being
sliding fee scale - herbs for children
$15-$25/hr - acute & chronic ailments
Call 544-2121

PRUDY SMITH FOR PLANNING BOARD

I was appointed to the Wendell planning in the spring of '88 to fill the vacancy left by outgoing planning board member Jerry Barilla.

Long nights of zoning by-law developement, the now famous special town meeting (for zoning by-law review), and regular planning board business have filled this, my first year of experience. I believe Wendell as a community and an environmental system is a valuable and endangered species and am here

Prudy Smith

to work hard to preserve and protect its rural character. Above all I value a clean and healthy environment, the simple beauty and the cohesive and active nature of our community. Another important and valuable aspect of this community I support and will continue to work for is its local and often independent cottage industry, small business and industry. I have worked with students from the Conway School of Landscape Design and other interested townspeople to develope a long-range plan to protect the health and vigor of our town center, specifically the town common.

Important work under progress and for the future includes development of a town wide "master plan" with special attention to creative zonong issues, including variable density zoning, zoning for industrial and commercial districts, and more.

Sarah Kohler

Planning Board

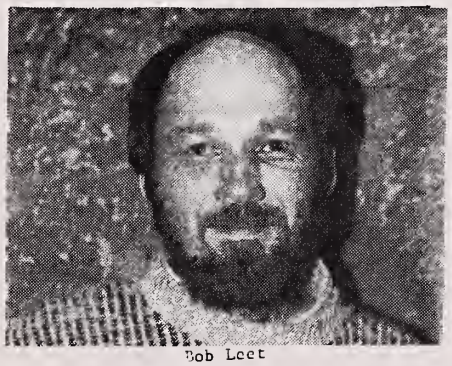
Hello, my name is Sarah Kohler, I've been a long time visitor to the town of Wendell, and a home owner here since 1986. In May I will be running for a seat on the Wendell Planning Board.

My interest in town government was sparked during the recent zoning by-laws' meetings, which most of us will remember for years to come.

Myron Becker, a member of the Planning Board for seven years, has announced his resignation. On April 4th I was appointed by the board to fill Mr. Becker's position.

As a real estate sales associate with Coldwell Banker, Geri Johnson & Assoc. (a locally owned real estate firm), I am very familiar with the zoning laws and practices of many of the area towns, and will combine my interest in the town of Wendell with my experience in real estate, to serve as a productive member of the Planning Board.

Because Mr. Becker's resignation came after the deadline for town election nominations, my name will not be on the ballot, but I will be running as a write-in candidate in the May elections. See you there!!



Bob Leet

Board of Health

Wendell is facing a new era of environmental difficulties, awareness, and regulation. Although I do not claim to have the final answers, I believe my background as an independent businessman and my engeineering education will help the Board of Health make its decisions with greater understanding. I have worked with the board for several months, and look forward to continuing that relationship.

HERB WORKSHOPS
at THE HERB FIELD

SPRING TONICS	Sat. April 29	9-12 am
THE HEALING HERBS	begins Wed. May 3	5 classes 6-8pm
THE SIX STEPS OF HEALING	Wed. July 12	7-9 pm
LISTENING TO THE PLANTS	Sat. July 15	9-1
WILD HERB WALK	Wed. eve. August 9	6-8 pm

Please call Kate at 544-2121 to reserve a place.

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

TOWN HALL 617 544 3395

DRAFT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ** 1989 ***

Article 2: To hear the report of Town Officials, or take any action thereon.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 1989 in accordance with the provisions of MGL, Ch. 44:4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with MGL, Ch. 44;17, or take any action thereon.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected and appointed officials of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1989, as provided in MGL Ch. 41;108, as amended, and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $876,648 from taxation or such other sum of money deemed necessary to defray such salaries and expenses for that period, or take any action thereon.

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during fiscal 1990, as permitted by MGL Ch. 44;53F, or take any action thereon.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of $6,632 as the Town's share of the Shared Administrative Assistant Program, to accept any other funds as may be available to support said program during fiscal year 1990, and to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a co-operative agreement as prescribed by MGL Ch. 40;4a for the program's administration and management, or take any action thereon.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $18,000 to pay for a full time Financial/General Assistant for the Town, or take any action thereon.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $10,000 to the Stabilization Fund, or take any any thereon.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $5,000 to the Reserve Account, or take any action thereon.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $10,000 to the Stabilization fund, or take any action thereon.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to [join the Franklin County Solid Waste Planning Board], or take any action thereon.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $1,098.01 as the Town's contribution toward the operation of the Franklin County Solid Waste Planning Board, or take any action thereon.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $10,400 as principal and $3,224 as interest to pay the Fire Department pumper note, or take any action thereon.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $10,000 to the Board of Assessors Revaluation Account for the 1991 revaluation of all town properties, or take any action thereon.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $13,000 as principal and $12,650 as interest to pay the Fire Station/ Highway Garage Note, or take any action thereon.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $1,400 for the purpose of conducting a Hazardous Waste Collection Day in coopertation with the County in November, or take any action thereon.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $103 as the Town's contribution toward the operation of the Franklin County Transit Authority, or take any action thereon.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Ch. 59;5;41C, which allows a real estate tax exemption for elderly persons, or take any action thereon.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Ch. 59;5;17D, which allows a real estate tax exemption for surviving spouses, aged persons and minors, or take any action thereon.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Ch. 59;5;37A, which allows a real estate tax exemption for the blind, or take any action thereon.

Article 21: To see if the Town will authorize the New Salem/Wendell Union School District to apply for and accept and be allowed to expend without further appropriation any funding which may be available to the Union School District by accepting the provisions of Chapter 188, Section 12 of the Acts of 1985 which established Equal Opportunity Grants for the purpose of increasing direct services to pupils in cities, towns and regional school districts, or take any action thereon.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Franklin County Technical School District to accept an Equal Education Opportunity Grant (E.E.O.G.) for the Commonwealth of Massacnusetts in the amount opf $12,281.00 in additional educational aid for fiscal 1990, or take any action thereon.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to withdraw from the Franklin County Plumbing and/or Wiring Program at the end of fiscal year 1989, or take any action thereon.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to join the Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspection Program at the beginning of fiscal year 1990, or take any action thereon.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to designate the Town Hall as a posting place for all Town Meetings and other public notices, or take any action thereon.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to [establish the position of agent for the Board of Health].

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution, or take any action thereon:

WHEREAS, the very survival of municipal government has depended on adequate amounts of local aid from the State

WHEREAS, local governments cannont raise the money needed to provide essential services without the active participation of the State

FULL-CIRCLE

In each tulip flower
There is a tremendous power.
Silent, yet strong;
It grows forever and long,
To share the color of its light,
Ever-glowing
Ever-bright.
Until the dawn of night.
When stars remind us of our origin of sight.

by Clare

LIFE IN THE GARDEN

by Karen Idoine

Remember hurricane Gloria? Some scientists speculate that she may have blown a tiny insect into New England from Long Island, where populations had existed for several years. No one knows for sure if the hurricane was responsible, but in 1985 the hemlock woolly adlegid was first noticed in Connecticut. Since then, severe infestations have developed in several parts of that state, killing large areas of hemlock trees.

The hemlock woolly adelgid sports a fuzzy white coat for most its life. Considering that it feeds during the winter, this seems appropriate. Adelgids resemble aphids, to which they are closely related, in size and general appearance. In fact, they are commonly called pine and spruce aphids, although they are members of the family Adelgidae, according to scientific nomenclature. Some hemlock woolly adelgids, scientifically named "Adelges tsugae", may appear on spruce, but they don't thrive on spruce in this area and don't cause damage there. On eastern hemlock, "Tsuga Canadensis", they appear as white cottony tufts on the young branches and twigs, usually close to the point of needle attachment.

If you look closely at these tiny, woolly masses with a hand lens you would find various stages of the insect, from egg to adult, under the white, thread-like secretions that shelter them. At this time of year, the insect is immobile and beginning to feed heavily. With its piercing, sucking mouthparts inserted firmly into the tender tissue of last year's new growth, it pumps nutritious sap through its body. In the middle of February the females will initiate egg-laying that will continue for about sixteen weeks.

Look for hemlock woolly adelgid on hemlocks in late winter and early spring. If present, the cottony, spherical egg masses will catch your eye. In April, the eggs begin to hatch into microscopic brown crawlers, the most mobile life stage of the insect. At this stage, they can ride the wind, birds and deer, or hitch-hike on logs harvested from the forest. Thus, they travel rather inconspicuously into new territories.

One of the interesting facts about this insect is that two different adult forms, winged and non-winged can develop from the same egg mass. The winged form will colonize and lay eggs on spruce trees, but does not develop beyond its early stages, In Connecticut, researchers documented this phenomenon on twelve common species of spruce. The question of whether it may eventually encounter a spruce species on which it can survive remains unanswered. Additionally, only the non-winged forms can lay eggs that subsequently develop on hemlock. This means that the spread of the woolly adlegid from hemlock to hemlock is dependent on the newly hatched young hitching a ride, since the winged forms won't colonize hemlock.

What does all this mean for hemlocks in Massachusetts? So far, the insect hasn't been noticed in Massachusetts. However, since the woolly adelgid has proven to be a serious pest in Connecticut and is now found in northern Connecticut, entomologists and foresters have their eyes open. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station have issued a pest alert bulletin soliciting information on the whereabouts of the hemlock woolly adelgid. If and when it appears prompt control action should be taken, especially if trees are valuable individual specimens.

Late winter and early spring spraying of horticultural grade oil mixed at a rate of one gallon of oil per one hundred gallons of water will kill the insects. Insecticidal soap sprays are also effective. To ensure complete control, cover all branches thoroughly with the spray. This pest can kill a tree in one season, so be sure to monitor the news about the geographic spread of this pest and meanwhile, keep an eye on your favorite hemlock trees. Trees should be treated as soon as an infestation is identified. Remember the first principle of integrated pest management: identification of the pest. For positive identification an the latest control recommendations take a sample to your local Cooperative Extension office. Pesticide recommendations may vary with the season.

Vigilance and action can pay off with hemlock woolly adelgid, unlike the situation with some other pests, such as pear thrips and gypsy moth where control is problematic. Researchers have launched a search for natural enemies of the insect, as well as for varieties of hemlock resistant to attack by the adelgid. In forest situations, where sprays can't effectively penetrate the canopy, these methods may offer the only hope for control.

THE GIFT OF EDWARD ABBEY

Creve Coeur, Missouri: It was nearly ten years ago when I walked into the University's bookstore in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and made the wisest $2.95 purchase of my life: Desert Solitaire by Edward Abbey. Like others before me, I read the book with little pause, refreshed by the writer's philosophy and soothed by his prose. And also like others before me, I took my $2.95 purchase and a backpack, and headed for the desert Southwest to see for myself. I followed Abbey's road, a gift to me from a gifted man, and I read nearly all that he had written like I had read no writer before. Abbey was mine, someone I could count on to say what had to be said, to describe and celebrate the land of little water, or to lash the ugliest characteristics of humanity with a pen that cut to the bone.

Now he is gone. Word came the other day that Edward Abbey was dead at 62, and my world grew instantly lonelier. His words will survive as long as his readers, but the man behind those works is gone and therein lies the loneliness, knowing that Edward Abbey is no longer out there thinking, walking, observing, and writing. The "Thoreau of the American West" is now just as dead as the man from Walden Pond, and Abbey's boots are equally unlikely to be filled. Eloquent mavericks are a one-shot deal, too damn few and far between.

"What will we do without Edward Abbey?" I wondered during the hours that followed the news of his death. The essays and novels will stop coming. There will be no sequel to The Monkey Wrench Gang: George Hayduke will never remodel Glen Canyon Dam. And the radical environmental movement has lost perhaps the chief mason of its stone foundation. But the stones were solid and true, laid down in a mortar of magic that only Abbey could mix. His work has cured and will endure like the masonry of the Anasazi.

I turned to Desert Solitaire the night the sad news came. Abbey was in there between the weathered cover; powerful, passion ate and poetic, alive like I wanted him to be: "Even after years of intimate contact and search this quality of strangeness in the desert remains undiminished. Transparent and intangible as sunlight, yet always and everywhere present, it lures a man on and on, from the red-walled canyons to the smoke-blue ranges beyond, in a futile but fascinating quest for the great, unimaginable treasure which the desert seems to promise. Once caught by this golden lure you become a prospector for life, condemned, doomed, exalted. One begins to understand why Everett Ruess kept going deeper and deeper into the canyon country, until one day he lost the thread of the labyrinth..."

Regardless of where I turned, Abbey was there in classic form: "We need coyotes more than we need, let us say, more people, of whom we have already an extravagant surplus or more domesticated dogs, which in all fairness could and should be ground up into hamburger and used as emergency coyote food, to raise their spirits and perhaps improve the tenor of their predawn howling."

The Chamber of Commerce in Anywhere, Utah will probably not miss Edward Abbey. They might have snickered while breathing a sigh of relief at the news of his death, for now he was off to the Devil's desert, unable to preach the gospel of "Wilderness: Love it or leave it alone," and unable to criticize the military-industrial complex; mans' inhumanity to man, Utah, and the universe in general. Not everyone will miss him, but realize it or mot, all of us needed Edward Abbey.

Like any thinking being, Abbey had pondered his own mortality long before the end had come: "Looking out on this panorama of light, space, rock and silence I am inclined to congratulate the dead man of his choice of jumping-off place; he had good taste. He had good luck - I envy him the manner of his going; to die alone, on ruck under sun at the brink of the unknown, like a wolf, like a great bird, seems to me very good fortune indeed. To die in the open, under the sky, far from the insolent interference of leech and priest, before this desert vastness opening like a window onto eternity - that surely was an overwhelming stroke of rare good luck"

I am saddened that Edward Abbey had no such luck, for if any one deserved the freedom of a desert death it was he.

But I am told that a handful of family and friends took his body not long after death, out into the desert and buried him beneath the night sky. I hope it was so, someplace he had been before and wanted to return, a place of rock and sun at the brink of the unknown, full of scorpions and sand, and the predawn howling of coyotes.

Robert Streeter
11226 Tureen Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63141

COMMONWEALTH ACUPUNCTURE
NANCY GROSSMAN, Reg. Ac.
Acupuncture, Acupressure
150 Fearing Street #23, Amherst, MA 01002
413/549-5855

NOTES ON THE BUDGET

The accompanying budget should be considered only "preliminary", even at this ate date. There are as yet several issing pieces, some major; an updated oard of Health budget for example. ighlights of the proposed budget include: liminate compensation for most depart-ent heads, level fund everybody else. evel fund highway & library budgets. educe expenses where indicated by past xpenditures. Schools up overall 21%, lthough it should be noted Swift River educed its original budget by half. nsurance up 21%. Major increase expected or audit of town records. Major de-reases: reserve fund ($5,000 - $2,500), 991 tax revaluation (10,000 - $5,000).

New categories: solid waste planning committee expenses ($1,098), garage/fire station note & Swift River construction note, tax taking expenses ($3,698), assessor's overlay deficit accounts ($12,002). This year's saving grace - certified free cash. Also, the traditional "recommended" column on budget replaced by "minimum impact" to reflect a less-than-heartfelt advocacy of some recommendations. The bottom line is a tax increase and most likely an override vote, which we struggled to avoid. Please watch for pre-town meeting date to further consider the budget or call Stephen Broll (4-3223).

Stephen Broll
Finance Committee

PRELIMINARY FISCAL 19

	FY 89	90 WENDELL BUDGET FY 90 REQUEST	FY 90 "MINIMUM IMPACT"
General Governmant	49,185		
Protection	15,771	53,446	50,430
Health & Sanitation	40,031	17,435	12,679
Highways	124,917	37,953	37,028
Veterans Benefits	7,176	139,162	124,033
Schools & Education	440,599	7,300	7,300
Libraries	6,505	548,531	547,061
Interest, Insurance & Assessments	53,598	7,089	6,705
Unclassified	5,500	64,980	64,980
		5,710	4,810
Total Article 4	743,282	882,456	855,026
Other Articles			
Garage Fire Station			
Interest 12,650			
Principal 13,000			
Sub-Total GFS			
Stabilization		25,650	
Shared Administrative Assistant		10,000	
Reserve		6,632	
Tax Revaluation 1991		2,500	
FRTA		5,000	
Swift River Construct. (Est)		103	
		24,000	
Total Non-Article 4		73,885	
Tax Rate Calculation			
Total All Articles		956,341	928,911
FY89 Levy Limit	498,351		
2½%	12.459		
FY90 New Growth	12,000		
FY90 Levy Limit	522,810		
Receipts:			
Cherry Sheet-last year's figure	279,792		
Local Receipts	60,000		
Total Receipts	862,602		
Cherry Sheet			
Assesments	12,006		
Assessors Overlay	10,000		
Assessors Overlay - previous years	12,002		
Net Receipts	828,594		
Total Appropriations			
Appropriations Less Receipts		956,341	928,911
Tax Taking Expenses		127,747	100,317
Total		3,698	3,698
Applied from Free Cash		131,445	104,015
Net Additional to be Raised		38,000	38,000
		93,445	66,015
Impact on Tax Rate per $1000		+$3.60	+$2.54

Stone's Pond

Police Log

2-2-89 One car accident Mormon Hollow Rd. No injuries.
2-3-89 Accident on Stone Rd. No injuries.
2-26-89 Ed Judice reported gun shot damage to drain pope on pond.
3-12-89 House fire, Jennison Rd. Bennet residence. Suspected arson.
3-24-89 Maple Valley reported student assaulted staff members.
3-26-89 Arrested Howard Wertheimer and returned to Northampton State Hospital.
3-27-89 Maple Valley reported another staff member assaulted.
4-9-89 Kathy Fiske reported red 80CC Honda from her garage.
4-15-89 Motor vehicle found on Cooleyville Rd. with interior damaged.
4-16-89 One car accident on Mormon Hollow Rd.
4-18-89 Family disturbance on West Rd.

Fire Log

2-18-89 Engine fire, B & M Railroad. Farley crossing.
3-3-89 Tree fire on Farley Rd.
3-12-89 Structure fire - Jennison Rd. Bennet residence, suspicious.
3-15-89 Vehicle fire. Jennison Rd. Brian Kowalski
3-16-89 Locke Hill Rd. and Jennison Rd. Chimney fire. Tanner residence.
3-20-89 Lockes Village Rd., illegal burning.
3-22-89 Chimney fire. East Rd. Eno residence.
3-28-89 New Salem Rd. Mobile home fire. Suspicious. La Fountain residence.
4-15-89 Locke Hill Rd. Mobile home. Oil spill.

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To Help A Friend

o the Wendell Post:

I live in the center of this wonderful town. Plenty of trees for fresh air, good soil to grow organic food, and plenty of water. I feel very blessed. I love this town and I love it's people, and I want to express what I feel without meaning offense to any individual. We are among the highest tax rated towns in the State, and at the same time we are among the poorest towns in the State. How would you feel if we could drop the property tax by 50% and at the same time attain a higher level of education? We need a positive change.

I have recently learned that the Town of Wendell has taken on a new role in government--not too different form the IRS who seizes "War Resisters" property--that is taking someone's property because of a dispute over tax usage.

I came to Wendell so as to live a simple Essene life, grow my own food and enjoy the beauty of nature. Being a poor person, I bought the most run down place in town-- the old dairy barn behind the burned out foundation of the old Inn. And with the use of material scavanged from the Wendell Dump, and with the help of friends, turned the barn into a simple and respectable home dedicated to serving the needs of many people. Because I took what other people threw away, fixed it and used it in my home, and because I reassembled and moved stones and rocks on my property, my taxes have risen from $250 to $1,600. The tax man told me I was lucky that I didn't have plumbing, electricity and central heat, and my house was considered unfinished or the taxes would go up to $2,400--imagine that--paying $200 a month in taxes because you cleaned and fixed an eyesore barn with materials no one wanted. Pretty absurd.

Taxes, the same problem throughout the ages. Government against the individual and family. Burden on the people. Jesus said give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and give unto God what is God's. The creator gave us many gifts, Air Water and Soil, and in the 2000 years since Caesar, Government has gotten progressively more stupid--under the illusion of greater education. Self preservation is the law of nature.

The root of the problem in Wendell is how we structure education. 70% of our tax dollar goes into education. That means I pay $100 a month to educate the children of Wendell. "I have no children," I told the tax man. "Doesn't matter," he said, "everyone pays the same." Now if a couple has four children and wants the State to educate them, and another couple has no children, and still another has children they want to educate at home--everyone pays the same, and that doesn't seem right.

The couple who has become wise enough to take on the responsibility of educating their own children (which is really theirs to begin with) should not have to pay a penny to contribute to the ignorant development of other people's children.

This whole point came to a head in the case of my good friend, Jim Casino. He has been ordered by the Town of Wendell to pay thousands of dollars in back taxes and an outrageous amount of penalty fees, or lose his house and land. This has caused him much stress. Jim Casino is not a criminal--he is an asset to the community. A Viet Nam Veteran, he worked hard, bought his property, built his own house, and continues to help many people in the area. There is no individual, group, or government which has the moral right to take this person's property. That act by the town of Wendell would make Jim Casino another homeless Viet Veteran. I don't believe the people of Wendell want this to happen. Unless each individaul joins in helping him, that may happen. (I don't mean we should chip in and pay the taxes.)

As it stands now, 70% of his tax which goes to education and is supporting the present system which is akin to war with the earth. For we set these taxes to pay for

Trash Meeting

what we should be doing. We in Wendell suffer from the Massachusetts Educational system which is so crippling to our children. It makes them ignorant to become part of an extremely destructive society--a society that every day destroys our air, water and earth.

A major concern is air. You can go days without water, weeks without food, but only minutes without air. Keeping this in mind, you place your children in a closed box (the classroom), inside another box (the school), inside an environment surrounded by exhaust gases--and in this setting you expect them to get an education. Science tells us that the area of the lungs is 20 times the surface of the body, and in a class of 30, that means a lung area surface of 600 people--all needing oxygen. Instead, our children are breathing the 'deadly' gases of the other children. Holy breath is our connection to the creator. The development of the human lung has much to do with peoples' evolutionary process.

Every day I see children run out of the pre-school next door to my house. The joy and excitement on their faces tells me they would rather be outside in the fresh air than in that classroom.

It is the responsibility of the parents to get more involved in the education of their children--rather than putting the burden on others like Jim Casino.

I believe that the consciousness in Wendell can create a cooperative (nearly expense free) education system--where small groups of children can be educated at home with a traveling certified teacher, eliminating the high cost of school building, fuel, etc. We have the teaching talent in this town; we live here because we seek and accept a higher value system than the industrial towns around us. And now, we should do something to reflect this attitude in our education system.

Peace and Love, Apollo

Taxes Unconstitutional

To the Wendell Post:

For the past seven years I have been "failing to file" an income tax return for either the state or the federal government. Those who do file may find some of this information useful. I won't however, advise you to "withhold your withholdings".

First, since the Fourth Article of the Bill of Rights allows that no individual shall be coerced into being a witness against themselves, and since tax returns require a signature (a sworn statement) then doesn't it follow that I don't have to file?

After all, a 1040 tells you plain as day, this info can be used against you.

"Big deal", you day. "They'll get it any way". Well, I say, they've been billing me for almost two years now. I'm still free. Not that I have anything for them to take.

Those who are "war tax resisters" who do file, but who in some way do protest and withhold, sometimes find their property has been confiscated (even without due process) on the basis of their returns. More significantly, a "fraudulent" return carries a possible jail sentence.

Therefore, anyone who, for whatever reasons (Constitutional, war taxes, etc.) feels it is inappropriate for them to pay this government to do unto us as it will, may legally act without fear of criminal penalties.

By the way, my own adventure in tax freedom began in protest to the massive amount of our wealth which was and is being dedicated to destruction. Why don't my brothers and sisters react to what they see? This planet belongs to all who've been given the sacred gift of life. We have all the resources we need to allow each of us to have our own place and means of survival. But not only our money, but our culture, skills, our community, even our wills seem to be dissolving.

This isn't what I want to leave my children. And the most amazing thing of all is that those who are perpetuating violence fail to see that it will come back to them, one way or another. I'd rather be drumming, singing and dancing.

Getting back to the income tax. It seems the whole idea is as unconstitutional now as it was when the founding fathers decided any "general" tax was to be based on the census, and apportioned by state. If you were paying a head tax, it'd be the same as your neighbor's, regardless of income. As far as the 16th Amendment goes, the original and all copies have disappeared, from what I hear. That's the document the IRS uses to justify the tax. They've make the Constitution disappear as quick as your tax dollars.

Sincerely,
John Ingress

$43,000 Leach Field

Nettle Soup

Serves four.

½ gallon nettle tops, lightly pressed down
1 large onion
1 clove garlic
2 medium-sized potatoes
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 cups homemade chichen broth or miso broth
salt and pepper to taste
½ cup whole milk (optional)
2 slices bread, cubed
1-2 tablespoons butter

Using gloves and scissors, trim away the stems from the nettle tops well. Peel and finely chop the onion, garlic and potatoes, and fry them for 3-4 minutes in a large saucepan with the olive oil. At the same time heat the broth to the boiling point (not quite). When the vegetables have cooked for the specified time, stir in the nettle tops and broth. Simmer on medium flame for 14-20 minutes till the potatoes are cooked. Transfer the mixture to a blender and liquefy at high speed. Return soup to pot, warm, season and serve with croutons made by sauteing bread cubes in butter.

Enjoy!

Recipe from Wild Food by Roger Phillips

STATE DAIRY SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Dr. William Graves of Conway, MA has been appointed State Dairy Specialist with the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System.

Graves, who until recently operated an 80 milking cow farm, will provide leadership for Extension dairy programs statewide. He will also be available to assist dairy farmers in western Massachusetts until such time as it is possible to refill the vacancy created by the retirement of Malcolm Hill. In addition, James Shaw, Cooperative Extension Dairy Specialist from Plymouth County, will continue to be available in Western Massachusetts for a number of days each month. As a member of the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Dr. Graves will collaborate with research faculty on applied research projects and will have a special interest in demonstration projects at the University Dairy Farm in South Deerfield.

A 1963 graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Graves also holds M.S. and Ph D. degrees in Endocrinology-Reproductive Physiology from the University of Wisconsin. He was first appointed as a faculty member in the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY, at Syracuse, NY in 1967. He subsequently became Dean of Graduate Studies and then Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

When asked to comment on his new position, Graves said, "each day, our dairy farmers in Massachusetts face new challenges as well as new opportunities. In these critical times, it is imperative that we in Cooperative Extension go even further in our effort to assist dairy farmers to meet these challenges and take advantage of the opportunities. We must be able to provide critical information when farmers need it, as well as develop team approaches toward problem-solving and applied research."

In 1976, Dr. Graves returned to Conway to assume ownership and management of the family dairy farm. In 1985 he was honored as the "Massachusetts Dairyman of the Year". He has served as a Selectman for the Town of Conway since 1977.

Graves and his wife, Linda, have three children: William, Jr., who will enter law school in September; Kelly, a student at U Mass and currently in Spain on an exchange program; and Brian, who will enter business school in September.

Dr. William Graves
Department of Veterinary & Animal Sciences
U Mass, Amherst, MA 01003
413 - 545-2340 (office)

Patti helps unload truck in Jamaica

GREETINGS BROTHERS/SISTERS

Let's go to Jamaica! And so we did. February of '88 was an experience well remembered. Lists, packing, ritual for a safe flight, N.Y. to J.A. in 3½hours. Warm winds greeted our arrival, and bumpy taxi ride up into the hills. The Jamaica we lived in that month was the Jamaica the tourists don't see. Camping on hilltops, yard style, walking their trails for water and bathing. Eating simple meals, directly from the earth. Living side by side with these friends and family, a bond was formed.

September '88 - Hurricane Gilbert 'mash down' Jamaica! We're concerned for our friends and recieve pleas for help. Meanwhile, our American sister Mharia has been living in Jamaica, and has invited us to come and attend the birth of her baby, due in December. Patti is able to, and we make plans for her to go. Realizing so many others also need help, we concieve of a benefit to raise money for food and supplies. Our Jamaican friends tell us of the difficulty in obtaining aid from the government - we decide to bypass this system and go direct, people to people. Our friends from Royalston, Raphael and Kathy, donated 2,500 pounds of brown rice. Laurie and Lewis from Ashfield held a Jamaican dinnerparty at their home and collected cash donations for this effort. The Equalites, a local reggae band, donated an evening of 'irie' dance music that packed the Wendell Town Hall. With the proceeds from these efforts, Patti was off to Jamaica, representing the love and concern of many local residents.

Arriving three days before the birth, I was happy to be back with my Jamaican friends. Some were doing okay and others still struggling with basic needs. I settled into a routine, up at dawn to start the daily chores. Carrying water, building a fire to cook, preparing meals, hand washing the 'nappies' (diapers) and cleaning. After two weeks of being totally baby centered I was then able to focus on using the cash that I had carried to buy and distribute badly needed supplies. Mharia and Gage (the baby's father), our friend Turner and I set out for the village of Lucea, where we purchased: Bulk quantities of cornmeal, flour, rice, milk powder, and cooking oil, rakes, nails, saws, hammers, wash basins, machetes and other little 'tings'. The people of Cascade, (where I stayed), were thrilled upon our return with the goods. It was three days before Christmas and the people to people connection was realized. Jah provide. Many thanks to all the individuals who made a contribution of money, energy and time. We are all one family.

Sisters Neva and Patti (blasters)

LOCAL ANGLER EARNS MEPPS FISHING AWARD

Richard J. Alves, Wendell Depot earned a special fishing honor recently. By using MEPPS spinners to catch fish which met certain size requirements, Alves was awarded a MEPPS Master Angler Award. He demonstrated fishing versatility and skill, and is one of the few area anglers to achieve Master Angler status.

The award is a combination Trophy Fish emblem and chevrons listing fish species. They can either be worn or framed.

For the first eligible fish, the angler receives a colorful Trophy Fish Award patch and chevron. When the fourth qualifying fish is entered, the angler earns a Master Angler Award patch and attractive certificate

To earn his trophy awards, Alves caught a 2 pound 1 ounce pickerel on Bauers Pond, a 4 pound smallmouth bass on Lake Wyola, a 2 pound 3 ounce rainbow trout on Lake Mattawa and a 2 pound 2 ounce bull trout in Johnson's Creek. All anglers can enter MEPPS catches that meet size requirements. For more information contact T. Layton "Shep" Shepherd, 626 Center St., Dept. R, Antigo, WI 54409-2496.

4-H NEWS

Peter Otten, 4-H Camp Howe Summer Camp Director, is now accepting "Counselor-in-Training" (CIT) Applications for the summer.

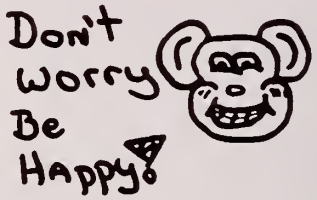
The CIT program is a two year program open to youth 15 - 17 years old. The two week sessions will begin July 9th, July 23rd and August 6th.

The youth receive leadership and skill development training. In their second week, CIT's may share cabin responsibilities with older counselors and use their teaching skills in the areas of their choice. Special fun activities are also part of the program.

Because of the limited number of spots available: registrations are accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

4-H Camp Howe is a residential camp for boys and girls 7 - 16 years of age. The camp is located on Highland Lake in Goshen, MA.

Further information and applications are available from: Mass. Cooperative Extension, 238 Main St., Greenfield, MA 01301 - Telephone: 774-2902.



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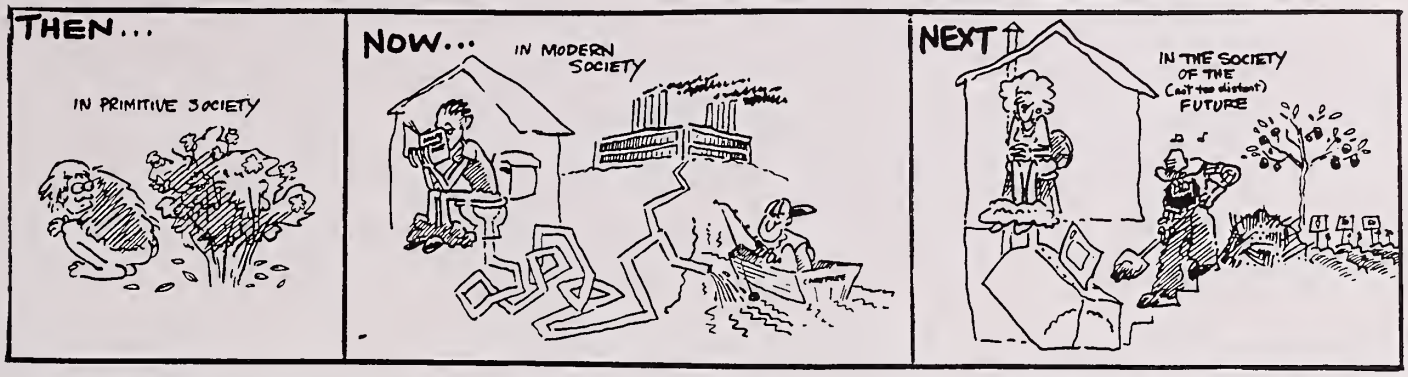

The Wendell Housing Committee: What Questions are They Looking At, and Why?

An update for townspeople from members of the committee: Steve Gross, Ann Perkins, Dave Wilder, Eileen Sauvageau, Raymond Avery, Susan Sprung, Maggie Houghton.

What's the housing situation in Wendell now? Little or no "spec" housing has been built in Wendell, and certainly no state housing projects. A recent rural housing effort enabled 7 households to build their own "sweat-equity" single family homes whose resale prices won't be determined by market inflation. Otherwise the cost of a home in Wendell is dictated by the open market. Traditionally, people built their own affordable homes on large parcels in Wendell, because Wendell was isolated and land was inexpensive. Now Wendell is regarded as being centrally located for working people who want to live in a rural community and work or go to school in the Connecticut River Valley and Mohawk Trail regions. The size of parcels sold in Wendell have decreased from the previous average of 20 to 50 acres, down to 3 acres. The average selling price for a building lot is $25,000 to $30,000, with one recently selling for $35,000. For just the lot. Our traditional population is being priced out of our town. Wendell is experiencing a trend that has already hit a number of towns in our region, a trend toward becoming a more suburban town of higher income people. We think this is a situation that the community needs to think about.

What's the housing situation for older people? The Council on Aging reports that in all of Wendell there are only about 50 people over the age of 60. Older people who do not have family members with whom they can live in Wendell have no alternative other than continue to live alone, possibly in an isolated spot, or else move to elderly housing in another town. We think that older members of the community shouldn't have to move away because their only local housing choice is lonely and insecure.

What new kind of housing does Wendell need? We feel that Wendell needs to think carefully about how to achieve housing that will contribute to the community's social and physical environment. An affordable housing effort will work for Wendell if:
(1) the homes are sited and constructed so as to fit in Wendell's rural setting;
(2) they support a lifestyle desired by rural people;
(3) the system of production and ownership that is used to achieve them is consistent with the community' political and economic philosophy;
(4) the effort is initiated, shaped, directed, and managed by local citizens.

What does the State mandate about affordable housing mean to Wendell? In a nutshell, Executive Order 215 says that each municipality must make good faith efforts to achieve up to 10% of their homes as affordable *and protected against inflated market increases in cost.* A municipality that isn't in compliance with this is ineligible to receive grants of a number of State programs. On the other hand, a community that is trying to address their need for affordable housing is eligible to receive grants and assistance. We think that Wendell should take the positive approach of identifying housing needs from our local perspective and meeting those needs in a manner that fits our town.

What is a "Comprehensive Permit"? If a housing project includes a portion of units that are made affordable through funding from a State program, the developer can apply to our local ZBA for a Comprehensive Permit, which would allow the development not to meet our local zoning regulations. If our ZBA turns the application down, *and* if Wendell has not achieved the 10% affordability target, the developer can appeal to a State-level Housing Appeals Board ("HAP"), which can overrule our ZBA.

The bad news is that an unwelcome development could get approval through a Comprehensive Permit. The good news is that a "friendly Comprehensive Permit" could allow necessary flexibility for a creative housing project that we do want because it fits our community. The friendly Comprehensive Permit process allows the ZBA to waive certain zoning requirements for a special project without opening the door to everybody else.

What has the Housing Committee done so far? We have been examining the practical and philosophical options available to the Town for meeting local housing needs. We have received technical assistance from Jeanne Armstrong of LandUse, Incorporated, the planning consulting firm that worked with Town officials to produce the "Building in Wendell" manual. LandUse received a Challenge Grant from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership to explore what it will take to make affordable housing work in rural towns, and that grant is paying for LandUse's services to us. We chose two sites in town to serve as illustrative examples: one that is privately owned, and one that is owned by the State Forest. We also decided to consider the different ways to build about 8 homes for elderly people and about 6 homes for families, because these are two groups whose housing needs are not being met by the private market.

Sample site designs and floor layouts are being considered and refined to best fit Wendell. Perhaps of even more interest, we are using these sample site concepts to examine different scenarios of construction and ownership in order to see just how such homes could be built and made available at a cost that would be affordable to the people we are concerned about. The Challenge Grant paid for consulting time from Art Pichette, a housing developer, who figured out a proforma from a private developer's point of view and then met with us to discuss the financial constraints of the private development approach. Next we met with Paul Douglas of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, and he described the requirements and regulations of State and Federal funding for housing. At our next meeting we will meet with representatives of some non-profit trusts that work with both affordable housing and land conservation.

What has the Housing Committee found out so far? It's very hard (maybe impossible) for a private developer to do a small number of affordable homes, and make the income he has to. The Housing Authority is hampered by many program requirements that don't really fit rural communities, but if we find the right site -- and if the Housing Authority can get the funding -- we might be able to work with them to construct a small number of homes for the elderly and/or for families. Once we have talked with the non-profit trusts we will know more about how a housing effort might be combined with preservation of open space. One thing is very clear: the cost of land is a big factor, so using Town-owned land or swapping for State Forest land may be necessary in order to keep the costs of the homes down to what people can pay.

What's next? What the committee wants to do is give Town citizens the chance to discuss what our options are, to agree on just what kind of affordable housing would be a welcome part of the community, and to understand just what it would take to achieve such homes. We will make a brief report to Town Meeting and plan to invite the community to a first public forum early in June. By then we will have enough information pulled together to provide a basis for discussion.

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HOME AND COUNTRY STORE

To the Wendell Post:

Here is corrected and fuller information on the historic photo of the present Apollo property in Wendell Center:

1920's - owned by a Cogswell (George I think)
1923-24 - rented by Lydia & Glenn Ellis.
Lydia ran the post office from there.
1930's - owned by my grandparents, George and Mabel Robinson from Cape Cod.
1930 to ? - owned by Frank and Etta Robinson Ballou (Robert Ballou's parents).
1950's - (late) owned by Leola and Ralph (Chub) Carey
Late 1960's - owned & renovated by Don Ellis then Outerspace Band - etc. etc.

It's a shame that it burned.

Helen Hansen
1444 Hermosa Ave. #66
Chula Vista, CA 92011

P.S. We enjoy the Post very much.

LETTER FROM ASSESSORES

To the Wendell Post:

OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF WENDELL FROM THE ASSESSORES:

Soon, we will begin the fiscal 1991 revaluation of all the real-estate in Wendell. It is required by the Commonwealth that we bring all of our assessments up to full market value every three years. Here in Wendell it has been quite a few years now since we last took a look at every property in town. It will be extremely helpful to the Board of Assessors to have every property looked at and valued. It will make it possible for us to fulfill our obligation to provide a fair and accurate property-tax assessment to every property owner.

We have hired David Burgess, of Greenfield, to do the actual measuring for us. He is self-employed, works alone, and is experienced in small rural towns. We have nopes that hiring him will save us a considerable amount of money. He is a friendly, considerate, and respectful person who comes highly recommended and we don't anticipate having any problems, but if you should have a problem with him when he calls or comes to see your property, please feel free to contact us - we would like to know about it.

I would like to answer a few questions about the evaluation process When we use the term "measure", we do mean that we measure the square footage of a building - but we also mean that we consider many other aspects of it's character, e.g. is it completed? Is it of average construction quality? Above average? Below average? We do need to see the inside of a building to make this sort of determination - it doesn't mean that we want to look in your drawers or judge your life style. It does mean we need to know the relative quality of your house so that we can assess it fairly.

If you don't want David Burgess to see the inside of your house or business, you can tell him so and contact us - we will try to make other arrangements. However, in these cases, you should be aware that the assessors are required to make an estimate of the value of your property.

You should also know that there is an abatement process that you can use to appeal the assessed value of your property and an appeal process beyond that if you are unsatisfied with the results of your case. If you request an abatement, you should be prepared to give us information as to why you feel that our assessment is incorrect.

There are time restrictions on abatements so if you decide to use them, please act in a timely manner. If you have questions about this - please ask.

Some people have asked, why do we have to hire someone to do this for us? One important reason is we will get much better results if all the properties are seen by the same person. Assessing is a subjective process and we have had problems in the past because too many different people have been involved in the process. Different eyes - different values! It doesn't mean that anyone was right or wrong - just different. We will get a more useful body of data if it is all collected by the some person. We think the person we have hired to do it will do a good job and that will make the whole assessing process work better in the future.

We hope this re-val will go smoothly and with a minimum of inconvenience. Please feel free to contact us with questions or comments.

Thank you,
Wendell Board of Assessors

Proposed statue of JFK

J.F.K. Memorialized

To the Wendell Post:

A statewide campaign to raise funds for a statue of Jack Kennedy will be starting this month with an announcement by Gov. Dukakis on or about April 25th.

If all goes well his statue will be placed on the west lawn of the state house in May of 1990.

This effort will, it is hoped memorialize president Kennedy's service to his country and inspire both young people and those of us who remember him to rededicate our energies in thses troubled times to the ideals he represented.

I am soliciting help from anyone in Wendell who might be interested in fundraising either through our town democratic committee or independently.

Please contact Dave Walsh at 4-7409 if interested.

Dave Walsh

Thanks & Thoughts

To the Wendell Post:

I would like to thank those involved for the vote of desperation that resulted in my being elected to finish out the term of Jim Slavas. I have gained a great deal as a result of this five-month experience, not the least of which is the ability to now guiltlessly say no. The call came in the middle of a large writing project to which I must now return.

For me, it was hard to limit my work for the selectboard. ~~I hear other board and com~~mission members say the same thing. There's always a sense of rusn and split focus as demands collide with meager time, not to mention money.

I'll be following up on my suggestion for a comprehensive local waste management plan that the board of health is phasing in, and to keep arguing for a pattern of cost and energy-saving decisions to try to keep the Town's feet planted on the ground against all kinds of enticements.

Over all, the experience has tended to confirm for me that the charactrer of this town a rare and endangered restraint. If Wendell is to remain a simple, flexible town, the job of governing I believe will have to be kept essentially voluntary. To do this, the work will have to be shared more...and carefully limited, which is hard. Certainly, services as a whole can't grow; it isn't a matter of affordability, but also to leave room for the flowering parts of ourselves to grow, to help the community glue become not more diluted, but stickier.

To this end, present Town officials should shamelessly ask friends, neighbors and outright strangers, or the new Volunteers for Wendell, for the assistance they need, the advice and criticism, too. And consider shunning complicated procedures in favor of direct ones. Given the unsuccess of growth in government, it's sensible to expect that a good head of local steam is likely to be more rewarding for us and the world than anything a chafing, straining budget process can buy.

Jonathan von Ranson

Coffee House Apology

To the Wendell Post:

To the Friends and supporters of the Full Moon Coffee House, and to the community who have attended performances over the past 4½ years. We, on the Coffee House Committee would like to extend our deepest regrets and most sincere apologies for the presentation of adult material, without sufficient notice, during the Feb. 18 coffeehouse. We also pledge to protect the family orientation of the coffee house in the future by clearly announcing adult material on our posters and public broadcasting spots. We also hope to encourage performers of our desire to maintain a family type of show and will advise the second set for adult material. In the years to come, we look forward to serving our community by scheduling a balance of per formances that reflect the composition of our community while supporting the creative expressions of our local artists. Thanks for your support in these matters.

Joshua Jay Dostis
For the Full Moon Coffeehouse Committee

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BERT REMEMBERS THE CENTER

Rubert Goddard's kitchen was once the main floor of a horse barn. The stalls were the bedroom where he now sleeps, and the hay was stored in the living room. It's a no-frills kitchen, with just a few horse pictures on the walls, and it's neatly kept. He shares it with two enormous buff-colored dogs, Mindy, a female ridgeback, and Ben, a golden retriever.

Bert, a few weeks before his 75th birthday in May, spoke to the Post about Wendell history. He has been a Wendell horseman, roadbuilder, dowser, and police chief. His recollections are sharp, and seem uncolored by nostalgia...if anything, he could be called blunt.

First he straightened out some history that has been incorrectly printed in the Post. In regard to the picture in last issue showing the white house on the corner of Depot Rd. and Montague Rd. before it burned, he said, "That was Charlie Cogswell's general store in the 1920's. There was the post office right inside the door on the left. Emma Cogswell ran it. Then the post office went to Charlie Fisk where Lucille Lewis lives. They put in pumps. Then Glen Ellis put in pumps right across the road. Competition, you know."

Returning to the subject of the house that burned, he said, "Then Joe Hartjens II--(the present) Joe's grandfather--lived there, then Leon Taylor. In the 1930's it was Captain Robinson.

"During that time Curtis Tucker bought the store, and moved its contents to here. He put gas pumps in. This wing (he pointed to the part of the house he doesn't occupy) used to be a carriage shed." He pointed to some sawhorses in his yard. "I put them up because I was afraid the oil truck might fall in. Practically every year I have to get some gravel to fill in the hole where the gas pumps used to be."

He remembers another mistake, this one from a Bob Streeter column three or four years ago: "The smallpox cemetery is not on Jennison, but Morse Village Rd. The woman and her daughter who are buried there died four years apart. You didn't mention the tin peddler from Watson, N.Y. who brought the smallpox in. He was just going through, he had smallpox, and gave it to the others. It used to be quite a village down there on that road. My mother and father had a house there past the power lines. You know, Kentfield Rd. goes off to the north a little further on. There was a factory there. My father died when I was 11, but if I remember right, he told me it was a hat factory."

Finally, "Town Hall was dismantled and moved, I think not moved with nine yoke of oxen like the paper said. It sat in toward Ed Chase's, right across Morse Village Rd. from Don Ellis'. You can see the foundation.

"I bet if you took some siding off you'd see marks on the timbers where it was numbered before it was dismantled.

"If you put nine yoke of oxen two abreast, by the time you got to the first ones they wouldn't hardly pull a thing. And if you harnessed them any wider, they couldn't have done it because the road wasn't wide enough.

"It was a Baptist Church. Before that the Town Hall was where the Center School is."

Here Bert mentioned that the present shed alongside the Congregational Church "used to be a lot longer. It was a horse shed, and everyone has number. Mine was No.6--the same as my father's. There must've been 15 or a dozen places....The Town scale used to stand where the flagpole is on the Common. It was taken out in the 1940s. I had a horse when I came out of the service, and weighed him in those scales. The bandstand used to be on this end of the south Common. When they took it down, they said they'd rebuild it, but they never did."

Bert mentioned that he'd heard about a proposal to cut off Center Road to widen the northern section of the common. "You can't just cut off that road. It's just as important as the Common. Besides, some older people have relatives buried in the cemetery, and they can drive by now and look."

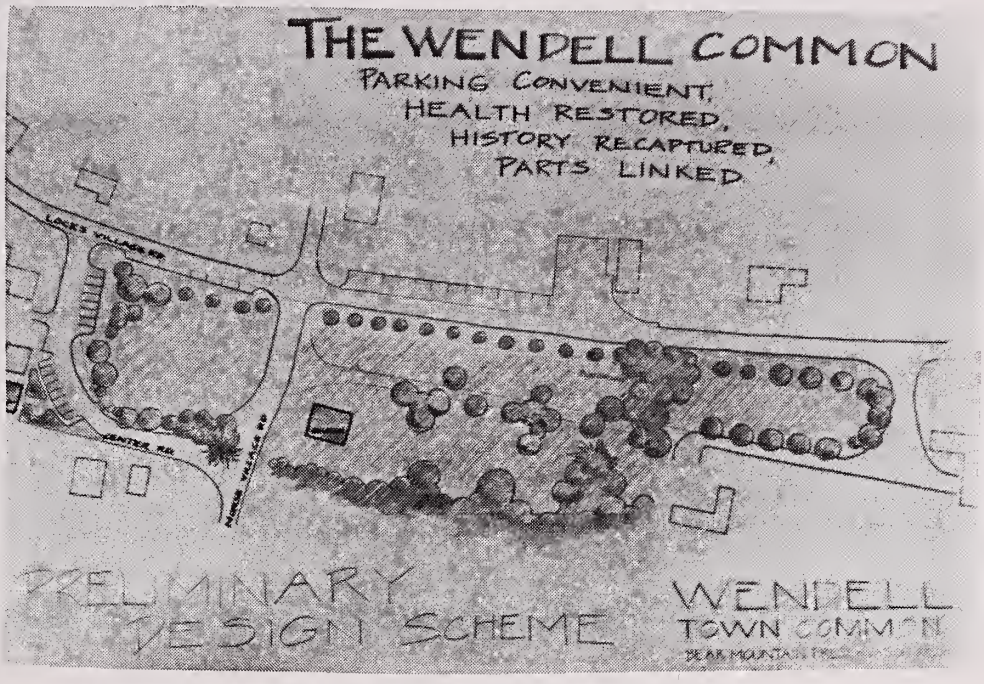
Bert said he helped plant a lot of the trees on the Common one Arbor Day. "They say it's salt that's killing them, but it isn't," he claimed. "I don't think it is. Or exhaust fumes, either." He said he didn't know what was damaging the trees. He said the Powling house used to be out in the field northeast of its present location. Center Road extended straight through where the barn now stands.

He went to school in the Center School in the 1920s. "I went eight grades in the same room, same teacher--40 to 44 kids. It was good, because you got a review of what you'd been through and a preview of what was coming. And if you couldn't learn to read or write, she could pound it into you. Emma Grew was my teacher. Her husband was a farmer; they lived where Sogards do. There was a woodshed on the back end, an outhouse in the back. It was heated with a big barrel stove in the back end of the school."

Electricity came to Wendell Center in the middle 40's, he said. As far as he could remember, everybody in Town got electricity "except my wife's father, Charles Bean on Jennison and Marian Whitney where Kathy Fisk lives. They wouldn't have wires hooked to their houses."

(Next issue Bert Goddard remembers other neighborhoods, police work, roadbuilding and dowsing).

Jonathan von Hanson



One version of what the Town common could look like for greater beauty and improved parking, as sketched by Conway School of Design

WILL WENDELL BE HISTORIC?

As many of you know, the Wendell Historical Commission has applied for National Historic Register status for many of the buildings around, and including the open space of, the Wendell Town Common. This historic district will include 13 buildings, the Center Cemetary, and the Common itself. This will not restrict the use of any of the buildings by their owners. Potentially, those buildings could apply for funds (loans and grants) for restoration.

For example, the Ellis property was once an inn, the "Summit House," around 1900. Once National Historic Register status is confirmed, this property would be eligible for restoration funds to return it to its function as a Bed and Breakfast or other style inn. This would increase the property's value as well as create a small commercial tax revenue for the town. It would certainly be in keeping with the Town Common's social, commercial, and historical functions.

The Common, itself, would be eligible for a limited pool of preservation funds for restoration and maintenance. This could include rebuilding the bandstand if the town so desired. Some of us are aware of the opportunities that National Register status has afforded the town of New Salem and their efforts to restore the New Salem Town Common area. With this status, Wendell would be eligible for similar funds. Unfortunately, the current state budget is severely curtailing these funds, but as we all know, the state budget fluctuates dramatically from year to year and there is good reason to hope for reimbursement of Town Common funds in the future. This is another good reason to look carefully at plans for the Common area now. The Conway School of Design has presented a variety of plans for improving the conditions of the Wendell Town Common. These plans cover replanting trees and possible parking areas. Interested townspeople should make an effort to view the plans.

Three years ago the Wendell Historical Commission sought and received funds to conduct the town's Cultural Resource Survey (an inventory of all buildings and archaeologically significant sites in town over 50 years old). All of the activity involved in both the Cultural Resource Survey and the research for the National Register nomination forms have led to another development, the writing of the town's history. As we all know, Wendell is one of the few towns in Massachusetts without a written history. Apparently there was one once, but it hasn't been seen in many years and there's no record of it in the U.S. Library of Congress. Therefore, this Historical Commission member is endeavoring to write Wendell's history. Part of the process is collecting oral histories from older residents and members of long term families. Another part of the process is reviewing and researching any and all relevant historical documents. If anyone would like to comment or has a question on the two projects, please contact Jean Susan Forward, 544-7502.

P.S.

One additional project planned in conjunction with the other historical activities is the creation of a permanent preservation vault for any historical documents and artifacts that exist.

COLD REALITIES OF TAKING THE HEAT

People usually know a bit about their town fire department, but mostly all they want to know is that if there is a fire, plenty of help will come fast. So a year ago, Wendell firefighters were really sweating it, all six of them.

Fortunately, over the summer, six men and women joined the department. Now there are 12 members. These fresh members put the W.F.D. in a lot better shape than before, but 4 or so more members are needed. Wendell has no paid people ready to go in the station. Call firefighters come to the station when signaled, otherwise they go about their normal lives. This may include working out of town, like most Wendellites. Because Wendell is a big place, some firefighters live 10 minutes from the station in good weather. When the fire tone sounds over the belt pager, a firefighter may be logging deep in the woods, tending a young child or ill person, or fixing the family car with the battery out. Firefighters in Wendell are always on call, no days off because there are not enough members to rotate crews, like in big towns. Of course everyone cannot really arrange their lives and schedules completely around the needs of the fire department, especially for free. To cover for these kinds of factors, a good sized pool of responsible people is needed.

This year a small crew of firefighters is expected to finish their new quarters, move into new quarters, re-build the tanker, make an increasing number of inspections, deal with growing administrative functions and paperwork, besides being trained, drilled fast, able to maintain equipment on a no-fail standard at as little cost as possible, and to restructure our internal systems to meet new demands. Most of Wendell's new firefighters say they joined because they thought they could help. So who are these people? They are just you, me and the next guy. Me and the next guy are asking you if you will help?

Kathy Becker, Lieutenant
Wendell Fire Department

P.S. Not everyone's cup of tea is firefighting. There are supportive rolls of various kinds which might suit you. For a start, join the Wendell Fire Association.

Swift River Library

PLANNING BOARD THANKS

The Wendell Planning Board would like to state our appreciation for the communities support during the recent series of zoning bylaw town meetings. Special thanks to: Amy Hubert, for her artwork in drawing our visual aids, to Joy Brenneman, for securing and schlepping the projector to each meeting, Mason Phelps, for his consistent interest, constant attendance at planning meetings and relentless attention to detail and to Annie Diemand, for providing sustenance and refreshments to the weary masses (including us!), to all the people who wrote stimulating letters and mailed them at their own expense, keeping issues alive and exciting, to the members of other boards and officials who took the extra time and did the extra work necessary to provide us with their unique perspectives on these complex issues, to the homeowners who hosted neighborhood meetings giving over the sanctity of their livingrooms and kitchens so that neighbors could gather to educate themselves close to their own homes, and finally, and perhaps most importantly, to all the dedicated folks who came repeatedly to the seemingly endless meetings and with tenacity, hung in there until we had hewn and molded what was a complex, controversial, and comprehensive set of zoning bylaws into something the Town of Wendell can honestly call it's own.

TRASH DISTRICT ON TOWN MEETING AGENDA

This spring, Town Meeting will be asked to decide whether Wendell should join the Franklin County Solid Waste District along with 18 other towns, including Greenfield, Orange, New Salem and Montague. The formation of the District is in response to the growing crisis which our country will be facing soon.

In the next five years, Franklin County will lose all but two of its landfills. As money must be spent to close the dumps that have filled up, we will also have to pay the higher costs of transporting trash considerable distances and tipping fees—what we are charged for each ton of trash we dump—which will be double or triple what we are paying now.

For the past year and a half, members appointed from each of the County towns participating have been working to find responsible answers that are ecologically sound and financially reasonable. We have concluded that a county-wide District presents the best chance we have to control our own future. By working together, we may be able to solve problems none of us could afford to solve on our own.

But is the District a good idea for Wendell?

Like many of the smaller towns in Franklin County, Wendell may be facing an expensive future. If, for example, the landfill portion of our transfer station had to close, the town would have to pay between one and two hundred thousand dollars an acre to cap it. In addition, we would have to pay as much as $70 a ton--or more--to get rid of what we pay nothing to dump now, effectively doubling our tons at the same time costs have doubled for each of those tons. Simple mathematics says that in three to five years, our solid waste budget could increase four times.

What can the District do to help Wendell keep these costs manageable?

Wendell's representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste Planning Board, along with other members from that board, will be at the Town Meeting in May to answer these and any other questions on this issue that the town may have.

VOLUNTEERS FOR WENDELL

Our volunteers have already been busy fixing and doing, though our numbers are still pretty small. A good turnout of volunteers came to the March "metal clean-up" at the Recycling and Transfer Station, and were rewarded with satisfaction and goodies to eat (via other volunteers).
BUT....

At our up-and-coming Town Meeting in May we will be seeing our budget cut in as many places as possible to afford rising school and other mandatory costs. Some jobs that were contracted out in the past may be eliminated. We will need to show our strength as a community that cares. Claudia Pommer is doing an excellent job coordinating volunteers with jobs needed to be done. But with more being requested in the future, we will need more different people to call on.

Please plan on signing up for the volunteer list either at the town meeting or by filling out this little form and sending it to Claudia.

Susan DunLany

☆PUBLIC NOTICE☆
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Write in

MARGO CULLEY

As a candidate for Selectboard, Margo Culley hopes to keep Wendell a politically progressive community. She will work to preserve our unique natural resources and to keep housing affordable for a diverse population. She will explore the possibility of freezing property taxes for older citizens on fixed incomes.

Margo has lived on West Road for eleven years. She teaches English at the University of Massachusetts.

MONDAY

May 1